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Such inadequacies as appear in the book are necessarily incident to the scope and purpose of the work and the method of treatment. We have seen that the definition of due process must consist in an enumeration of the acts which may be done in its name. Such an enumeration the author has given us most satisfactorily. He displays a sense of proportion and a faculty for generalization, arrangement and concise and exact statement which render his work lucid and readable and remarkably free from the clumsiness of much legal writing. To those who desire a deeper knowledge of the subject, he has furnished an excellent handbook to be used in connection with a more detailed study of the decisions referred to.

THOMAS REED POWELL.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

The American Idea. By LYDIA KINGSMILL COMMANDER.
New York, A. S. Barnes and Co., 1907.—xii, 332 pp.

This discussion of the question, whether the coming of the small family means race suicide or race development, is valuable chiefly for the large amount of first-hand testimony it contains touching the causes of our falling birthrate. The author cites no new statistics, but her numerous interviews with physicians, spouses and parents throw much light on the movement of opinion adverse to the large family. The book abounds in pithy and salty expressions served hot from the interviewer's note-book. How some Taine of the twenty-first century will pounce upon such naïve revelations as these: "Nell has a lovely husband. He says he doesn't want her to have any children. That's what I call a good, kind-hearted man, and it shows he's really fond of her." "Have one, or at the outside, two. I believe in a family, but not in a regiment!" "I don't see but what I had a right to have them (eight children). Of course people laugh at me, but maybe I can laugh at them some day." "I don't like Ellen, I never did. I can't help laying it up to her that she has such a lot of children." What a light we should have on the infecundity that worried Cicero, if only an efficient interviewer like Mrs. Commander had collected the private views of his time!

In addition to the causes usually assigned—ambition to rise, the growth of wants, the emancipation of women—the book seems to show that the spread of economic dependence is playing a great part in cutting down the family. The American pay-envelope masses have keen foresight, and unless the sense of insecurity that haunts those who live from a job instead of from a farm is relieved by making employ-

ment more stable, none among the coming urban millions will have children, save the paupers, the rich, the priest-ridden and the green immigrants. There can be no more terrific arraignment of the brutal industrial practice—much lauded by the prophets of efficiency—of throwing a man out at forty or forty-five on the ground that “this is a young man’s country.”

EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle. By E. BARKER.
London, Methuen and Company, 1906.—xxii, 559 pp.

Somewhat of hardihood is required in one who would put forth an exposition of the political philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. The thing has been done very often and very well; and a justification for doing it again is not easily hit upon. Especially serious is the difficulty when no new or important dogma of modern political science is uppermost in the commentator’s thought and is the real subject of his treatise on the Greeks. A reinterpretation of Plato and Aristotle to show the substantial harmony of their thought with the latest developments of science is a normal accompaniment of intellectual progress. Every solid achievement and every freak or fad of philosophy seeks support from the master minds of Hellas. If, then, Mr. Barker had invented a new type of ethical theory or a new theory of sovereignty; if he had discovered that all politics is economics, or that sociology is something which even sociologists can understand and explain; or if he held a brief for any social panacea—in any such case he would as a matter of course write a volume on the political theories of Plato and Aristotle. But so far as a casual reading reveals, he has no ulterior motive in his enterprise, and has produced his book merely from a general scholarly interest in the subject, and probably in connection with teaching it.

That under the circumstances the treatise is distinctly worth while, is the utmost tribute that the author could desire. With no pretense to originality he gives us an orderly, full and extremely lucid exposition of Greek political philosophy as centering in the greatest Greek philosophers. For the historical and archæological setting the author leans heavily upon the best of recent German commentators. For his political science he acknowledges Thomas Hill Green as his master. That Mr. Barker shows rather unusual surefootedness in this field, gives additional confirmation to the impression that Green’s influence upon those who came in personal contact with him was far different from